

20 November, 1944

145 S.S. FORT DEARBORN

U.S. Tanker, built 1943; 10,448 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed Ulithi, Western Carolines, 18 November, 1944, for Einewetok,
Marshall Islands.

Bombed and strafed 20 November, 1944; 1500 L.A.T.; 12°00 N.-155°E.

Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, light E.

On board, 82; saved, 82

Vessel: salvaged.

In a convoy with two other merchant vessels, this tanker was warned that enemy planes were about, and alerted when they were sighted a few minutes before the attack. What were variously described as 6 to 9 Japanese planes came out of the sun to bomb and strafe the convoy for 1-1/2 hours, making 15 attacks. Five to seven bombs were dropped, none of which made a direct hit, the nearest being 500' astern of the ship. Four men were injured, none seriously, and the only damage to the ship was minor, and in no way impaired her operation.

A good barrage of anti-aircraft fire was put up by the merchant vessels, although no planes were brought down. The FORT DEARBORN proceeded to port under her own power, arriving at Einewetok 22 November, 1944.

